Lizards are generally found to feed on live and walking insects. Dead insects under experimental conditions are not touched. Cases of ejection of some distasteful insects (?) accidentally hunted and taken into the mouth has been observed in *Hemidactylus flaviviridus* at Kolasib (Mizoram) by me.

The above mentioned incident of the tucktoo trying to feed on an inanimate object indicates that probably the lizard is not able to recognise whether its prey is dead or alive and is possibly stimulated only by the movement of the likely prey. Secondly, the continuous battering of the toy fish also indicates that the lizard was not able to test the taste of the prey.

This type of inanimate feeding behaviour of tucktoo is very peculiar and unusual and hence worthy of record.

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21. NEW LOCALITY OF THE KOYNA TOAD, *BUFO KOYNAYENSIS* (AMPHIBIA)

The Koyna toad, *Bufo koynayensis* (Amphibia) Soman 1963, was described by Soman in 1963 from Humbali village, Shivaji Sagar lake at Koyna, Satara dist., Maharashtra at about 1300 m (Frost, 1985). One more toad species was also described from the same locality as *Bufo koynayensis,* namely *Bufo sulphureus* by Grandison and Daniel (1964). As the morphological features of *Bufo sulphureus* were similar to *Bufo koynayensis,* the former was synonymised with the latter (Dutta, 1992). The distribution of the Koyna toad was known only from the type locality (Frost, 1985).

In August 1995, during a survey of amphibia along the Western Ghats in southern Maharashtra, three adults and some juveniles of *Bufo koynayensis* were collected at the forests of Amboli ghats (15° 52' N, 73° 56' E), at 750 m elevation, in Savantwadi taluka, Sindhudurg dist. Collection data and morphometric details are as follows:

Materials: 3 exp. (2 females, 1 unsexed); BNHS Regn No. 3018, 3019 & 3037; Amboli (alt. 750 m); 25.viii.95 & 26.viii.96; Coll. Aloysius G. Sekar and V.M. Hegde.

Measurements: Snout-vent length of females 31.0-32.0 mm; head length 8.75-9.75 mm; head width 11.05-11.95 mm; tibia length 10.5-11.95 mm; snout-vent length of unsexed specimen 27.6 mm; head length 8.2 mm; head width 10.45 mm; Tibia length 10.3 mm.

The other morphological characters perfectly match the description of *Bufo sulphureus* (Grandison and Daniel, 1964). However, the colouring of the toads in the present collection slightly differs from that of the earlier description. The dorsal surface of the adult was described as yellowish brown and marbled with grey on the flanks, whereas the toadlets were greenish brown on dorsal side and could be distinguished immediately from the blackish brown toadlets of the common toad, *Bufo*

melanostictus. Both the females were gravid with ripe eggs.

Ecological notes: Two individuals were collected from the short-grass patch in the thick forest during a shower, whereas one specimen was picked up from the wet soil covered with wet leaf litter in the forest. The toadlets of *Bufo koynayensis* were seen hopping around along with the common toad *Bufo melanostictus* on the forest floor. However, the Koyna toad was not sighted with the common toad in any other habitat except the forest habitat, while the common toad was sighted everywhere in the forest as well as around human habitation in the town. The numbers of the Koyna toad were less compared with other amphibian species at the same site. It seems the population of this toad is poor even in the forest habitat.

The Koyna toad, *Bufo koynayensis,* is considered as an endemic species of Maharashtra since its first description in 1963. No information is available on its distribution either within the state or outside it for about 32 years. The recent record of this species from Amboli at the southern border of Maharashtra, on the Western Ghats, indicates that this species may occur in the neighbouring states of Karnataka and Goa also.

I thank Dr. Jay Samant, ex-Director, BNHS, who initiated the survey of South Maharashtra and Mr Vithoba Hegde who accompanied me during the survey. I thank the BNHS for financial support and the forest department, Savantwadi, for their cooperation during my visit in Amboli.

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22. OCCURRENCE OF *RAMANELLA VARIEGATA* (ANURA: MICROHYLIDAE) IN WEST BENGAL WITH NOTES ON ITS DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

On the evening of 13th April, 1996, a small microhylid frog with yellow blotches on the back was collected from the toilet of the Banspahari Forest Rest House, Banspahari Range, West Midnapore Forest Division, Midnapore District, West Bengal. It was identified as *Ramanella variegata* (Stoliczka, 1872). The specimen, a male with brown spots on the throat and measuring 21 mm from snout to vent was deposited at the National Zoological Collections (Regn No. A8748), Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. As the species has not been included in the Z.S.I.'s State Fauna Series: Fauna of West Bengal, Amphibia (Sarkar *et al,* 1992) and had not been reported from Midnapore district (Mansukhani and Sarkar, 1977), this specimen constitutes the first record of the species from West Bengal.

The species is known from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and extralimitally from Sri Lanka. While Daniel (1963) claimed the species to be rare, recorded mainly from eastern peninsular India upto Chanda in Madhya Pradesh, Murthy (1968) who reported it from Madras, claimed it to be common. The species